



**MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**  
*Maryland's Social Services Agency*



**MEDIA ADVORY**

**For immediate release:**  
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**DHR SECRETARY BRENDA DONALD TO GIVE AWARDS FOR  
IMPROVEMENTS IN CHILD WELFARE THROUGHOUT STATE**

**BALTIMORE** – Maryland Department of Human Resources Secretary Brenda Donald will award local departments of social services that showed the most impressive child welfare reform results at a luncheon on Thursday, September 10, 2009 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Anne E. Casey Foundation in Baltimore.

In February of 2007, Donald began implementing *Place Matters* – a statewide initiative to find permanent families for foster children, update social work practices and involve families in decisions affecting children in foster care.

In less than two years local departments of social services have shown marked improvements in meeting their adoption goals, reducing the number of children placed in group homes, increasing reunifications, reducing the number of children coming into foster care and increasing the number of children placed in family settings.

**WHO:**

DHR Secretary Brenda Donald  
Local Department of Social Service Directors  
Representatives from Maryland's Courts

**WHAT**

Place Matters Awards Luncheon to acknowledge and reward child welfare improvements

**WHEN:**

Thursday, September 10, 2009 -- 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**

The Annie E. Casey Foundation  
503 North Charles Street  
Baltimore, MD 21202

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- Martin O'Malley, Governor
- Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
- Brenda Donald, Secretary